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## Memorandum

**To:** Member States  
**c.c.:** John Hopkins – Chairman, Rules of Golf Committee  
**From:** Simon Magdulski  
**Date:** 25 January 2006  
**Subject:** Amended Specimen Local Rule – Distance Measuring Devices

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As advised in my memorandum dated 15 December 2005, a committee is now permitted to establish a Local Rule allowing players to use devices that measure distance only (see Decision 14-3/0.5 in Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2006-2007). It should be noted however that the use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (eg wind or gradient) is not permitted. [NB The new Decision 14-3/0.5 referred to above came into effect on 1 January 2006.]

In the absence of a Local Rule in this respect, the use of distance measuring devices would be contrary to Rule 14-3.

Please note that The R&A has amended its previously-advised recommended wording for such a Local Rule (as contained in the 15 December 2005 memorandum) to the following:

*[Specify as appropriate, eg, In this competition, or For all play at this course, etc], a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (eg, gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.*

The R&A further advises that any such Local Rule must prohibit the use of a distance measuring device that is capable of gauging or measuring other conditions that might affect play, even if such a function is not used.

Golf Australia endorses these positions.

Please contact me should you have any queries.

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